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MALLET, BERNARD. *British Budgets. 1887-1888 to 1912-1913.* Pp. xxiv, 511.
Price, \$3.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914.

Mr. Mallet has been remarkably successful in this endeavor to supplement the earlier works of Lord Iddesleigh and Mr. Sydney Buxton. Taking up the problems of British financing at the point where Mr. Buxton's study ended (1885-1886) he presents and analyzes the budgets of Messrs. Goschen, Harcourt, Hicks-Beach, Ritchie, Chamberlain, Asquith and Lloyd George. This historical survey is followed by the budget tables for the period studied, and by a collection of tables summarizing governmental receipts and expenditures together with somewhat elaborate notes analyzing these tables.

As one reads this story of British financing and compares it with American practice he is struck with both the advantages and the futility of the budget system. The British practice gives definiteness and conciseness to fiscal matters. The careful forecast of both receipts and expenditures, their adjustment to each other and the close correspondence so often found between estimates and results, arouse admiration. Yet after all England's fiscal problems are much the same as those of the United States. The field of governmental activity is broadening, expenditures are increasing and new sources of revenue are being sought. There are to be seen the same outcry against the growth in annual disbursements and the same unwillingness to call a halt. Direct taxes are gradually being substituted for indirect. Income taxes and death duties are being increased to make possible large payments to local taxation accounts and for social insurance. Sinking fund payments may, in time of need, be drawn upon. In short, an excellent budget system, though invaluable, does not solve all fiscal problems.

There are several matters that probably could not have been treated and Mr. Mallet has wisely avoided them. His estimate of the policies of Mr. Goschen is admirably written but similar estimates of later chancellors cannot be presented for some years. Also a more complete discussion of the budgets of Mr. Lloyd George would have been appropriate had space permitted. Mr. Mallet very properly states that the topic could not be adequately treated within the limits of the present volume.

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MANGOLD, GEORGE B. *Problems of Child Welfare.* Pp. xv, 522. Price, \$2.
New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914.

This book is practically a revision and enlargement of the author's previous book, entitled *Child Problems*, and "is designed especially for use by college and university students in courses on constructive and preventive philanthropy."

The social obligations to childhood are conceived to be: the conservation of life, care of health and physique, training and education, protection from child labor, reform and prevention of juvenile delinquency, and care of dependent children.

The book contains an immense amount of information, is well up-to-date in its brief discussion of an encyclopedic number of topics and sub-topics under the six general headings named above. Better discussions of special topics are available in print, but I know of no one book which covers so well the whole field of community care of children.

The most interesting chapters are the introduction and the conclusion, for in these the author departs most from the prevailing method of systematic statement of facts and accepted principles. For example, in the conclusion it is clearly pointed out that unless our programs for child welfare rest more solidly than at present on scientific bases of carefully and widely collected data, they will likely not prove welfare programs at all. Some topics on which he thinks we need more light are: origin of juvenile offenders, results of probation, the nature and causes of physical degeneracy, the real parts played by heredity and environment, the problem of sex education, and the economic basis of social reform.

The author emphatically deplores so-called social legislation for which there has been laid no adequate basis in fact. With this opinion the reviewer is in hearty accord. It is, therefore, something of a shock to read further on this pronouncement: "Of far greater importance than successful case work is the power to inspire and the capacity to develop community action for the promotion of the common good." Can the author make clear how such community action can actually be taken without basing it at every step upon the solid foundation of the facts of case work which he says are comparatively of little importance? For myself I think his earlier plea for more facts on which to base community programs is the sounder view.

Again (p. 491) he says: "The time has also come when we must relegate to the rear our older methods of individual work and begin to apply the new. Private charity is often narrow and individualistic and concerns itself only with binding up the wounds of the distressed." There is much truth in this statement, but is the alternative merely between that of keeping this work individualistic or throwing it away? Is not the third alternative the true one, as has been suggested above; namely, the continuance of case work with individuals but always with the individual in true perspective against the community background?

In short, must we not, whether under private or public auspices, continue to care for each individual as his real need demands, but while we are doing this, get also the maximum of suggestion for community action to prevent the conditions which lead to this kind of distress? Furthermore, shall we ever be free from the obligation to test in terms of individual welfare the results of community laws and programs already in force, or to be in force, designed to meet a particular kind of need?

The book has a varied bibliography and good working index. It should find a real field of usefulness especially as a text-book.

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